

The Requirements of the Gospel

Faith comes by hearing the gospel message (Rom. 10:13-17), and with faith comes conviction of sin. When the people believed Peter's gospel message, they became conscious of their guilt and asked the Apostles what they should do (to obtain forgiveness for their sins).

Godly sorrow works repentance (2 Cor. 7:9, 10). But some who feel conviction refuse to repent, and harden their hearts in willful unbelief (Acts 5:29-33; 7:54). The gospel opens the door of repentance to sinners, but those who harden their hearts against it will bring on themselves the righteous judgment of God (Rom. 2:4, 5). But the penitent will find mercy and forgiveness (Psa. 34:18; 51:17; Isa. 66:2).

Peter obeyed Jesus' commission when he told the penitents to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Jesus had commissioned the disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. And He promised that the signs of casting out devils, speaking with new tongues, miracles, and divine healing should follow those who believed and were baptized (Mark 16:15-20).

In obedience to this commission, Peter required those who asked what they should do, to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of their sins, and promised that they should receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

The gospel of our salvation is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus (1 Cor. 15:1-4). There is no other means by which men may be saved. The only sacrifice for sin that God will accept is that which was made by the perfect Son of God on the cross of Calvary for our sins, in our stead. His burial also was essential. But if He had not come forth in the resurrection, we would still be in our sins (1 Cor. 15:16-23).

(Acts: The Amazing History of the Early Church by Jet Witherspoon Toole, Hazelwood, MO.: Pentecostal Publishing House, 1984 [1972], 23, Paragraph Structure Modified)